

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 111630Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 548

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2164

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, FR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: A. STATE 78926; B. STATE 69945

1. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY
DIRECTOR SOVIET CULTURAL AFFAIRS CENTER AND INFORMED OF
SOVIET EMBASSY INTENTION TO ORGANIZE CEREMONY AND/OR
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY
DEFEAT OF NAZI FORCES IN WWII. SOVIET CENTER DIR.
SOLICITED PAO'S OPINION ON SUBJECT AND SUGGESTED "ALLIED
FORCES" UNDERTAKE JOINT PROGRAM TO MARK EVENT ON MAY 9.

HE MENTIONED HE HAD JUST COME FROM DIR. OF FRENCH
CULTURAL CENTER WHERE HE DISCUSSED SAME SUBJECT. WHEN
PAO ASKED ABOUT REACTION OF FRENCH COLLEAGUE TO SOVIET
PROPOSAL, SOVIET REPLIED THAT FRENCH COLLEAGUE WOULD
CONSULT HIS SUPERIORS.

2. IN REPLY TO SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER DIR'S. SUGGESTION,
PAO SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER.
HOWEVER, PAO SAID HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT BASIC IDEA OF
ALLIED CEREMONY TO COMMEMORATE DEFEAT OF NAZI FORCES WAS
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SENSITIVE ONE WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED OFFENSIVE TO FRG
DIPLOMATIC MISSION, AND THAT PERHAPS GOS MIGHT NOT

APPRECIATE THIS KIND OF CEREMONY.

3. PAO CONSULTED WITH DIR, FRENCH CULTURAL CENTER
ON THIS MATTER. ON APR 11 FRENCH CULTURAL CENTER DIR.
TOLD PAO FRENCH WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY JOINT CEREMONY
WITH SOVIETS. WHEN ASKED IF THEY WOULD ATTEND SUCH A
CEREMONY IF INVITED HE REPLIED, "THAT REMAINS TO BE
SEEN".

4. UNLESS DEPT HAS FURTHER SUGGESTION, PAO INTENDS
REPLY TO SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER DIR. ALONG LINES PARA
ONE REF A. AND DRAWING UPON GUIDELINES REF B. WE INTEND
KEEP FRG EMBASSY INFORMED.

5. ADVISE.
AGGREY

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